

### III. REMARKS

The abstract has been amended to shorten it. It is therefore submitted that it is no longer objectionable.

The description has been amended as requested. It is therefore submitted that it is no longer objectionable.

Claims 10-11 and 15-19 are rejected under U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Wong.

As extensively discussed in the last response, Wong represents the common misunderstanding, according to which a punctured convolutional code would inherit all features of its unpunctured "mother" code, including the distribution of error probability associated with bit positions in the coded sequence of digital data. The present inventor was the first to note that this is actually not the case, but puncturing causes changes in the distribution of error probability, which means that the rearrangement of bit positions so that most important bits go to the least vulnerable bit positions must be designed independently for the punctured convolutional code.

Thus the prior art teaches away from the present invention, which is an indication of unobviousness (see The Gillette Co., U.S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., 16 USPQ2d 1923, 1927). Also indicating patentability is the advantage of the present invention (see In re Slocoube 184 USPQ 740). In particular, instead of having the bit errors increase towards the end of a frame, the error correction capability is concentrated in some other part of the frame (see p.12, ll. 1-8) where it would be more needed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance, or at least an entry for appeal purposes, is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to **571-273-8300** on the date indicated below, addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

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